



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement of Welcoming Of the Appointment of Ambassador Christian Strohal as Director of ODIHR

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 23, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States too is pleased that the Ministerial Council has appointed Ambassador Strohal as the new Director of ODIHR.

Ambassador Strohal has a number of difficult problems ahead to deal with, including possible future activities in Chechnya, and others as well.

But we are sure that Ambassador Strohal will be up to this challenging task. His background and previous leadership, his human rights experience, and his knowledge of the OSCE will serve him well in his endeavors.

We look forward to meeting him, which we believe will take place at next week's Permanent Council, and at that time to being able to welcome him personally.

In the meantime, we would like to join The European Union in commending Mr. Wagenseil for his excellent work as acting director.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.